



Virginia Department of Education

PO Box 2120

Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120

TITLE I
DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS
OF THE YEAR
2005

Beverly P. Bailey
Mary G. Broderson
Dawn C. Cobb
Debra Cohill
Bryan Cooley
Bessie H. Cooper
Kim L. Dye
Vicki T. Fleenor
Kim Helbert
Billie Dawn Miller Howell
Mary Ann Hutchinson
Brenda Jackson
Rachel B. Johnson
Elizabeth W. Jordon
Leavina G. Lee
Linda Minor
Travis M. Nickels
Carolyn S. Pillis
Ellen C. Vernon
Jan Vittum
Judy H. Williams
Robin P. Wood

TITLE I
DISTINGUISHED
EDUCATORS
OF THE YEAR
2005



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of School Improvement and the
Office of Program Administration and Accountability

Introduction for 2005 Title I Distinguished Educators Award

We are very pleased to honor and congratulate the twenty-two recipients of the ***2005 Title I Distinguished Educator Award***.

The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, requires states to develop an achievement award program for schools that exceed adequate yearly progress (AYP) requirements. The nominees for the 2005 Title I Distinguished Educators Award are teachers and administrators from Virginia's schools that received the Title I Distinguished Schools Award. These are schools that met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years without safe harbor, were fully accredited for two consecutive years, and had a mean score at the 60th percentile or higher for English and mathematics in 2005.

The Virginia Department of Education values the accomplishments and expertise that each of these educators demonstrated at their schools. Their continued dedication to students throughout Virginia is greatly appreciated.

We honor each individual educator whose name is included in this publication. Excerpts from the letters of recommendation, which were a component of the application packet, were used to compose a brief summary on each nominee.

Best wishes for continued success to Virginia's Distinguished Educators for 2005.

Kathleen Smith, Director
Office of School Improvement
Virginia Department of Education

School Division: Chesterfield County Public Schools
Nominee: Bessie H. Cooper
Title: Principal
School: Bensley Elementary School

Ms. Cooper is an instructional leader who truly and sincerely believes her students can learn. As a result of her leadership, and her work with staff and students, Bensley Elementary School has won national awards: Title I National Distinguished Award, National School Change Award for Fordham University, Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Award, Reading Excellence Act recipient, and additionally, the Title I Virginia Distinguished Award. Bensley continues to surpass expectations for student achievement. Ms. Cooper integrates and coordinates all school funding to focus on the academic achievement of students and to support the needs of staff.

Patrice Wilson, Principal of Bensley Elementary School and Dr. Billy Canady, Superintendent of Schools nominated Ms. Cooper.

School Division: Danville City Public Schools
Nominee: Ellen C. Vernon
Title: Kindergarten Teacher
School: Forest Hills Elementary School

Ms. Vernon exhibits strength and balance in teaching. She challenges her students by engaging them in a variety of activities, all designed to meet their individual needs. Her class is challenging because she has many children who have a variety of special needs. Most of her students had no exposure to print before entering school this year, and now all are reading. Some read above grade level. The high level of success that Ms. Vernon's students are experiencing is a testimony to her dedication and teaching techniques.

Her peers, Cynthia Zook, Principal of Forest Hills Elementary School; and Dr. Sue B. Davis, Superintendent of Schools, nominated Ms. Vernon.

School Division: Danville City Public Schools
Nominee: Judy H. Williams
Title: Principal
School: Woodrow Wilson Elementary School

Through Mrs. Williams' leadership and experience as principal, Title I Coordinator and teacher, Woodrow Wilson Elementary has progressed from a low-performing school to a school exhibiting academic success. Mrs. Williams serves as a mentor to other educators who aspire to go into administration. She motivates students and faculty to do their best through her strong example and encouragement. She willingly provides technical support to other schools in her division. Mrs. Williams is interested in providing technical assistance to other Title I schools.

Dr. Sue B. Davis, Superintendent of Schools, nominated Mrs. Williams.

School Division: Dinwiddie County Public Schools
Nominee: Brenda S. Jackson
Title: Teacher, Title I Tutor-Reading, K-5
School: Southside Elementary School

Mrs. Jackson has exhibited exemplary qualities as a professional educator. She also serves as the Reading Lead Teacher/Facilitator. She has demonstrated dedication to her students' success and achievement. With high standards and expectations, she tutors and assesses students, interprets data, plans and collaborates with teachers, and provides a strong resource support system within Southside Elementary. Mrs. Jackson efforts have been a vital part of the school's success.

Roberta Brown, Principal of Southside Elementary School and Dr. Charles Maranzano, Superintendent of Schools nominated Mrs. Williams.

School Division: Franklin County Public Schools
Nominee: Leavina G. Lee
Title: Principal
School: Glade Hill Elementary School

When Ms. Lee became principal at Glade Hill, the Standards of Learning assessments were just getting underway and results indicated the students were struggling. Ms. Lee recognized inconsistencies in the school's educational approach. She had a plan and persevered in promoting success for students through implementing new programs, supporting teachers, and encouraging students. Ms. Lee sends the message that effective professional development is a critical component towards students' achievement. Through her focus and exceptional guidance, She has led Glade Hill Elementary students and teachers toward academic excellence. Mrs. Lee is interested in providing technical assistance to other Title I schools.

Dr. Larry Hixson, Superintendent of Schools, nominated Ms. Lee.

School Division: Frederick County Public Schools
Nominee: Bryan Cooley
Title: Teacher for Instructional Support
School: Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School

Mr. Cooley was chosen as the Instructional Support Teacher because of the phenomenal performance of his students on the SOL tests. He was able to ensure, through good assessment and teaching techniques, that students were able to pass SOL tests. Mr. Cooley has worked with 4th and 5th grade teachers on teaching strategies and as a result of this work, the 4th grade and 5th graders have risen. He has coordinated instruction among regular teachers, Phonological Awareness and Literacy Screening (PALS) intervention aides, English as a Second Language (ESL), and Title I teachers to ensure consistency for all students. Mr. Cooley is interested in providing technical assistance to other Title I schools.

Dr. Thomas Hanisch, Principal of Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School and Dr. William Dean, Superintendent of Schools nominated Mr. Cooley.

School Division: Giles County Pubic Schools
Nominee: Jan Vittum
Title: Teacher, Special Education
School: Narrows Combined School

Ms. Vittum is a very dedicated teacher, who is characterized by her identification of student needs and her effectiveness in methodology and approach. She has been instrumental in developing a “successful” curriculum that allows full inclusion for all of our students. Ms. Vittum has much contact with students in 4th and 5th grades and is essential to the achievement of the school which we met 100% of the applicable target goals, *10 out of 10*. She serves as chairperson for special education, a mentor, and an effective member of the testing team, and she supported the integration of special education and regular education.

Richard Franklin, Principal of Narrows Combined School and Terry E. Arbogast II, Superintendent of Schools nominated Ms. Vittum.

School Division: Gloucester County Public Schools
Nominee: Elizabeth W. Jordon
Title: Title I Reading Specialist
School: Abingdon Elementary School

Mrs. Jordan has received commendations for above and beyond performance, modeling of instruction, and teamwork strategies. Student success in early literacy has been dramatically improved due to the instructional guidance of Mrs. Jordan. When she works in a room with teachers, she promotes a positive learning environment, assists teachers in managing literacy centers, and models the teacher-to-teacher approach. She has designed an individual support program, which invites parent involvement. Mrs. Jordan is interested in providing technical assistance to other Title I schools.

Dr. Kimberly Ann Huesing, Principal of Abingdon Elementary School, nominated Mrs. Jordan.

School Division: Gloucester County Public Schools
Nominee: Mary G. Broderson
Title: Assistant Principal
School: Thomas C. Walker Elementary School

Mrs. Broderson has the ability to design and implement programs for some of the most difficult (*to teach*) children. Thomas C. Walker Elementary is recognized locally and statewide as a model school for inclusion due to the efforts of Mrs. Broderson. Her excellent rapport with teachers, students, and parents has defused difficult situations, which ultimately permitted children to receive needed services. Mrs. Broderson has been a key contributor to the schools’ success. Mrs. Broderson is interested in providing technical assistance to other Title I schools.

Dr. Bambi L. Thompson, Principal of Thomas C. Walker Elementary School and Dr. Howard B. Kiser, Superintendent of Schools nominated Mrs. Broderson.

School Division: Hanover County Public Schools
Nominee: Kim L. Dye
Title: Teacher, 4th and 5th Grades
School: Beaverdam Elementary School

Ms. Dye has the skill to differentiate her lessons to challenge each student individually while maintaining the integrity of the curriculum. Students leave her class with strong foundations and skills. Ms. Dye has said, *“There are so many ways a child grows in an academic year that cannot be measured by a score. The biggest improvement that I’d like to see in my students at year’s end is their growth in self confidence, pride in their work, and a new spark of enthusiasm for learning.”* This summarizes her contributions to students. Ms. Dye is interested in providing technical assistance to other Title I schools.

Richard Waldrop, Principal of Beaverdam Elementary School and Dr. Stewart D. Roberson, Superintendent of Schools nominated Ms. Dye.

School Division: King & Queen County Public Schools
Nominee: Debra Cohill
Title: Teacher, 3rd Grade Science & Math
School: Lawson-Marriott Elementary School

Mrs. Cohill has distinguished herself as a teacher and leader. Her students have performed well above the 70% mastery level in both science and math. As a leader in the school, Mrs. Cohill met once a month with peers to discuss curriculum and instruction. She spear-headed the textbook adoption process and serves as co-chairperson for the After-School Program. She shares ideas, strategies and techniques with others. Mrs. Cohill is interested in providing technical assistance to other Title I schools.

Sarah Pinckney, Principal of Lawson-Marriott Elementary School and Dr. Richard Layman, Superintendent of Schools nominated Mrs. Cohill.

School Division: Lynchburg City Public Schools
Nominee: Robin P. Wood
Title: Teacher, 3rd Grade
School: Robert S. Payne Elementary School

Throughout her 22 years, Ms. Wood has remained dedicated to the students and demonstrates an excitement and true love for all children. She accepts students who are considered “at-risk” and views each child as an individual with “high promise” by seeing their true potential. Her successful efforts are recognized by the high performance of her students, as measured on the Virginia Standards of Learning. She is an important part of the Payne Elementary School leadership team and serves as a member of several division-wide committees.

John E. Blakely, Principal of Payne Elementary School and Dr. Paul McKendrick, Superintendent of Schools nominated Ms. Wood.

School Division: Mecklenburg County Public Schools
Nominee: Rachel B. Johnson
Title: Teacher, 3rd Grade/Title I, Grades 1-3
School: Buckhorn Elementary School

Mrs. Johnson was instrumental in the development of a successful improvement plan that allowed Buckhorn Elementary School to reach full accreditation. She serves as the school’s language arts contact and math council representative. Her contributions to the division have led to the division selected as one of the 16 “*Outperforming School Systems*” in Virginia. Mrs. Johnson has made a difference in the education of many students and has provided leadership for teachers and staff.

The school staff, Danny Cameron, Principal of Buckhorn Elementary School; and Dr. Frank Polakiewicz, Superintendent of Schools, nominated Mrs. Johnson.

School Division: Mecklenburg County Public Schools
Nominee: Beverly P. Bailey
Title: Teacher, 5th Grade Math
School: Chase City Elementary School

Mrs. Bailey is a quiet, but strong instructional leader. Her success is realized in the Chase City Elementary Standards of Learning (SOL) scores, which surpassed the Virginia Benchmarks and the National “*No Child Left Behind*,” Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. She unselfishly mentors new teachers, coaches new and experienced teachers, shares strategies during staff development sessions and is a ready learner as opportunities arise. Her belief and determination is that all children not only “can” learn, but they “must” learn. She creates an exciting classroom environment where both regular and special education students work side-by-side in a collaborative setting. Mrs. Bailey knowledge and resources enable her to meet the instructional needs of all students.

Hilda Puryear, Principal of Chase City Elementary School and Dr. Frank Polakiewicz, Superintendent of Schools nominated Mrs. Bailey.

School Division: Newport News City Public Schools
Nominee: Mary Ann Hutchinson
Title: Principal
School: George J. McIntosh Elementary School

Mrs. Hutchinson's creative leadership led McIntosh Elementary to recognition as a "2005 Distinguished Title I School" as well as a "National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence" in 1996. She addresses every situation with energy, creativity, and an "out of the box" approach. Her numerous initiatives have caught the eye of her fellow colleagues and others in the district and state. Using a collaborative process of total interactive involvement for the staff from 3 schools, gains were realized in the areas of accreditation and academics. Additional evidence of Mrs. Hutchinson's managerial and leadership skills are evident in the full accreditation based on the Virginia Standards of Learning for the past four years. Mrs. Hutchinson is interested in providing technical assistance to other Title I schools.

Dr. Marcus J. Newsome, Superintendent of Schools, nominated Mrs. Hutchinson.

School Division: Richmond City Public Schools
Nominee: Dawn C. Cobb
Title: Teacher, 5th Grade, Title I Math
School: Ginter Park Elementary School

Ms. Cobb teaches with wonderful insight of students and curriculum. She engages students in innovative, hands-on activities to learn concepts and skills. She develops an outstanding learning community with her students and parents, working diligently to establish positive relationships with each. She plans parent workshops and family nights to assist parents in understanding science and math concepts so that they can assist their children at home. Ms. Cobb is interested in providing technical assistance to other Title I schools.

Cathy Randolph, Principal of Ginter Park Elementary School and Dr. Deborah Jewell-Sherman, Superintendent of Schools nominated Ms. Cobb.

School Division: Salem City Public Schools
Nominee: Billie Dawn Miller Howell
Title: Teacher, Title I Reading
School: East Salem Elementary School

Mrs. Howell has been the driving force in the success of many students at East Salem and views her job as a mission to ensure children achieve. One of Mrs. Howell's strongest attributes is her ability to assess and develop a plan to aid students in reading skills, as evidenced in a high success rate on the Standards of Learning. She seeks out parents and encourages their participation and works with school staff offering inservices and guidance and/or strategies. She is committed to children with whom she works and is instrumental in each of their successes.

Diane Rose, Principal of East Salem Elementary School and Dr. N. Wayne Tripp, Superintendent of Schools nominated Mrs. Howell.

School Division: Salem City Public Schools
Nominee: Carolyn S. Pillis
Title: Teacher, Title I Resource
School: G. W. Carver Elementary School

Ms. Pillis serves as Title I Coordinator and Title I resource teacher for students in grades K-5. She has a "never give up" attitude when it comes to instruction and helping a child succeed. She will leave "no stone unturned" in her efforts to seek other avenues for instructional strategies and techniques. Ms. Pillis developed the "Early Bird Read Aloud" club, which has made a huge difference in the reading skills of students. It was awarded 1 of 7 *Certificates of Recognition by the 20th Annual Excellence in Education Awards at Virginia Tech. (May 2003)*. She initiates parent workshops in the evening to bring parents into the school and provides assistance for them on how to help their children at home with homework. She epitomizes the school's mission statement of "Put Children First."

Trula Byington, Principal of Carver Elementary School and Dr. N. Wayne Tripp, Superintendent of Schools nominated Ms. Pillis.

School Division: Scott County Public Schools
Nominee: Travis M. Nickels
Title: Teacher, 6th Gr. Science & Soc. Studies
School: Shoemaker Elementary School

Mr. Nickels is an outstanding teacher, who continues to remain current on news and innovative ideas that make his teaching come alive. His effectiveness is evident in the continued success of his students on the Standards of Learning tests with his class average for the last several years of 85%. Mr. Nickels served as the science lead teacher in the Coalfield Rural Systemic Initiative. He helped purchase Dell science materials and trained teachers in using the materials effectively in the classroom. He is professional and has good instincts in problem solving.

Kathy Musick, Principal of Shoemaker Elementary School and James Scott, Superintendent of Schools nominated Mr. Nickles.

School Division: Washington County Public Schools
Nominee: Vicki T. Fleenor
Title: Teacher, 2nd Grade
School: Highpoint Elementary School

Ms. Fleenor is highly respected by all for her caring manner, outstanding instructional delivery, and expertise in reaching children with learning disabilities. Her students excel in all academic areas and her students' scores were consistent with the schools' scores, reflecting pass rates of 80-90 percent in all areas. Her expectations are high. She shares daily Standards of Learning reviews with colleagues to ensure student retention of information. Ms. Fleenor accommodates the special needs of students by individualizing instruction for each child.

Patricia Sorah, Principal of Highpoint Elementary School and Dr. Alan Lee, Superintendent of Schools nominated Ms. Fleenor.

School Division: Town of West Point Public Schools
Nominee: Linda Minor
Title: Principal
School: West Point Elementary School

Ms. Minor has served successfully as principal for the last five years and West Point Elementary has been fully accredited during each year of her tenure. Ms. Minor's reading improvement plan included the goals to raise reading performances of at-risk children in primary grades. It was designed to increase children's volume of independent reading and has been an incredible success. Ms. Minor is creating a culture within West Point Elementary in which reading is considered as fundamental as breathing. Ms. Minor is interested in providing technical assistance to other Title I schools.

Meg hard, Director of Instruction, Melisa Pitts, Title I Advisory Committee Member and Dr. K. Jane Massey, Superintendent of Schools nominated Ms. Minor.

School Division: Wise County Public Schools
Nominee: Kim Helbert
Title: Teacher, 5th Grade
School: St. Paul Elementary School

Ms. Helbert eagerly accepts challenges. Her inner strength and determination to triumph over obstacles is the secret of academic success for her students. She is determined to *"get the job done"* where others may admit defeat. Sheer strength of character defines Ms. Helbert. She is dedicated to academic achievement and life-long learning for the students at St. Paul Elementary School.

Nancy Salyer, Principal of St. Paul Elementary School and Nolan Kilgore, Superintendent of Schools nominated Ms. Helbert.

Title I Distinguished Schools 2005

| <u>Schools</u> | <u>Public School Divisions</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Brownsville Elementary | Albemarle County |
| Crozet Elementary | Albemarle County |
| Stony Point Elementary | Albemarle County |
| Woodbrook Elementary | Albemarle County |
| E. G. Clymore Elementary | Augusta County |
| Wilson Elementary | Augusta County |
| Big Island Elementary | Bedford County |
| Breckinridge Elementary | Botetourt County |
| Greenbrier Elementary | Charlottesville City |
| Bensley Elementary | Chesterfield County |
| D.G. Cooley Elementary | Clarke County |
| Forest Hills Elementary | Danville City |
| Woodrow Wilson Elementary | Danville City |
| Southside Elementary | Dinwiddie County |
| Thomas Jefferson Elementary | Falls Church City |
| Glade Hill Elementary | Franklin County |
| Henry Elementary | Franklin County |
| Sontag Elementary | Franklin County |
| Apple Pie Ridge Elementary | Frederick County |
| Armel Elementary | Frederick County |
| Narrows Combined | Giles County |
| Abingdon Elementary | Gloucester County |
| Thomas C. Walker Elementary | Gloucester County |
| Goochland Elementary | Goochland County |
| Beaverdam Elementary | Hanover County |
| Elmont Elementary | Hanover County |
| Carver Elementary | Henry County |
| Rich Acres Elementary | Henry County |
| Fieldale-Collinsville Middle | Henry County |
| Highland Elementary | Highland County |
| Lawson-Marriott Elementary | King & Queen County |
| Elydale Elementary | Lee County |
| Keokee Elementary | Lee County |
| Harrington Waddell Elementary | Lexington City |
| Middleburg Elementary | Loudoun County |
| Potowmack Elementary | Loudoun County |
| Robert S. Payne Elementary | Lynchburg City |
| Buckhorn Elementary | Mecklenburg County |
| Chase City Elementary | Mecklenburg County |

Title I Distinguished Schools 2005

| <u>Schools</u> | <u>Public School Divisions</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| G. J. McIntosh Elementary | Newport News City |
| Luray Elementary | Page County |
| Stuart Elementary | Patrick County |
| John L. Hurt Elementary | Pittsylvania County |
| Poquoson Elementary | Poquoson City |
| Poquoson Middle School | Poquoson City |
| Simonsdale Elementary | Portsmouth City |
| Ginter Park Elementary | Richmond City |
| Glenvar Middle | Roanoke County |
| William Byrd Middle | Roanoke County |
| Effinger Elementary | Rockbridge County |
| Natural Bridge Elementary | Rockbridge County |
| Fulks Run Elementary | Rockingham County |
| Mountain View Elementary | Rockingham County |
| South River Elementary | Rockingham County |
| Belfast Elk Garden Elementary | Russell County |
| Copper Creek Elementary | Russell County |
| Lebanon Elementary | Russell County |
| East Salem Elementary | Salem City |
| G. W. Carver Elementary | Salem City |
| Fort Blackmore Elementary | Scott County |
| Hilton Elementary | Scott County |
| Nickelsville Elementary | Scott County |
| Shoemaker Elementary | Scott County |
| Weber City Elementary | Scott County |
| Harrison Road Elementary | Spotsylvania County |
| T. S. Mcswain Elementary | Staunton City |
| A. V. Boissevain Elementary | Tazewell County |
| W. T. Cooke Elementary | Virginia Beach City |
| Windsor Oaks Elementary | Virginia Beach City |
| Hilda J. Barbour Elementary | Warren County |
| Greendale Elementary | Washington County |
| High Point Elementary | Washington County |
| Watauga Elementary | Washington County |
| West Point Elementary | Town of West Point |
| Matthew Whaley Elementary | Williamsburg/James City County |
| St. Paul Elementary | Wise County |
| Tabb Elementary | York County |



COMMONWEALTH *of* VIRGINIA

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P. O. BOX 2120
Richmond, Virginia 23216-2120**

**Title I
Distinguished Educators of the Year
2005**

**Beverly P. Bailey
Mary G. Broderon
Dawn C. Cobb
Deborah Cohill
Bryan Cooley
Bessie H. Cooper
Kim L. Dye
Vicki T. Fleenor
Kim Helbert
Billie Dawn Miller Howell
Mary Ann Hutchinson
Brenda Jackson
Rachel B. Johnson
Elizabeth W. Jordon
Leavina G. Lee
Linda Minor
Travis M. Nickels
Carolyn S. Pillis
Ellen C. Vernon
Jan Vittum
Judy H. Williams
Robin P. Wood**